



IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES: BOOKLET OF RELATED READINGS 25

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PREFACE

This booklet represents the twenty-fifth in a series of compilations of print and electronic articles that are relevant to the defeat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that insurgent and terrorist operatives use to kill and injure U.S. military forces and civilian populations. The readings are related to IED technology, social networks that may provide insight into how insurgent groups communicate and relate to their members, and other technical and cultural phenomena that will help the Joint Improvised Explosive Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) meet its mission.

The first section of the booklet contains abstracts of the articles included in the booklet in alphabetical order by author and title. The abstracts are hyperlinked to the article itself located later in the booklet. At the end of each article is a hot link to the original article on the Internet. Information of particular relevance is highlighted in yellow.

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ARTICLE ABSTRACTS

[“Al-Ashaikh Urges Imams to Tackle Terror, Extremism,”](#) *Arab News* [Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia], May 10, 2008.

The Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance says that imams and Friday preachers in the Kingdom’s mosques are reluctant to deal with the topic of terror and extremism in their speeches unless ordered to by the Ministry. Another official stressed the need to appoint full-time preachers at mosques who would be able to devote their full attention to their congregation.

Al-Hakeem, Mariam. [“Those Who Go to Fight in Iraq ‘Are Preachers of Evil,’”](#) *Gulf News* [Dubai, UAE], May 7, 2008.

A prominent Saudi Islamic scholar, speaking to members of the teaching faculty at Imam Mohammad Bin Saudi Islamic University, has warned Saudi youths against going to Iraq to fight in the war-torn country. He labels those who go to fight in Iraq as “preachers of evil” and urged people to tell the authorities about potential terrorists.

Barras, Colin. [“Gamers Teach Search Engines How to See,”](#) *NewScientist* [London], May 14, 2008.

A new Web site could help “teach” computers to recognize images and music just like people can. The next step would be to use that database to train computers to tag the images themselves.

[“Centre Points at ‘Neighbouring’ Country for Jaipur Blasts,”](#) *The Hindu* [Chennai, India], May 14, 2008.

On May 13, 2008 seven near-simultaneous IEDs exploded in the Indian city of Jaipur, killing a minimum of eighty people and wounding 150. This article from a major Indian newspaper provides many details concerning the attacks, as they were known the following day. [Researcher Note: In 2006, 2,765 people died in terrorism-related violence in India. A review of the data indicates that nearly 41 percent of all such fatalities occurred in Jammu and Kashmir alone as a result of the Pakistan-backed separatist proxy war in that state. Some 27 percent resulted from left-wing extremism (Maoism/Naxalism) across parts of 14 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. About 23 percent of the total fatalities in 2006 occurred in the multiple insurgencies of India’s northeast.]

Dergham, Raghida. [“Acquiring Women’s Rights in Saudi Arabia: Between Gradualism and Haste,”](#) *Al-Hayat* [Beirut, Lebanon], May 9, 2008.

The recent National Experts Meeting on Domestic Violence in Riyadh was historic because it was the first of its type to openly address domestic violence, including sexual violence against women. The status of women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains

different in contrast to the status of women in the rest of the world, including Arab women in several Arab countries. Advocates of gradual change believe that hasty change could be counterproductive, whereas gradual change offers more guarantees for women's rights. Others want immediate legal protections.

[“Flies Eyes Could Enhance Robot Vision,”](#) *Physorg.com*, May 9, 2008.

Researchers from the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, California and the University of Wyoming have developed a fiber optic sensor inspired by the compound eye of the common housefly. The design can quickly locate edges and boundaries of images.

Freeze, Colin. [“Terror ‘Wannabes’ Canada’s Biggest Threat,”](#) *The Globe and Mail* [Toronto], May 8, 2008.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner says that terrorist “wannabes” in their teens and 20s are among the biggest terrorist threats in Canada. He believes they are attracted to “sound-bite Islam” and argues that they are less religious scholars than misfits and are motivated by Internet propaganda depicting atrocities against Muslims.

Glazov, Jamie. [“Kafir Dreams,”](#) *FrontPageMag.com* [Los Angeles], May 7, 2008.

This is an incendiary interview with Bill Warner, Director of the Center for the Study of Political Islam, about many of the names, words, and phrases used concerning Islam. Warner believes that “the reciprocity of altruism is the very basis of civilization. Islam does not share this trait.”

Grimland, Guy. [“Israel Startup Uses Behavioral Science to Identify Terrorists,”](#) *Haaretz.com* [Tel Aviv], May 9, 2008.

According to an Israeli company, it has developed technology that, in under a minute, can screen an individual, without his or her knowledge or cooperation and without interfering with routine activities, and disclose intentions to carry out criminal or terror activity. The technology can also identify subjects who are not carrying any suspicious objects, do not demonstrate any suspicious behavior, do not fit into a predefined social or other profile, and do not arouse any suspicion. [Researcher Note: Have we examined this yet?]

Hecht, Jeff. [“New Material May Be Step Towards 3D Invisibility Cloak,”](#) *NewScientist* [London], May 13, 2008.

A California nanotechnology research lab says it has created the first 3D material able to bend light in the opposite direction to natural materials. Physicists have in recent years made it possible to bend, or refract, light in the opposite direction to any natural materials. These metamaterials make it possible to create invisibility cloaks that hide an

object by steering light around it. [Researcher Note: The developer is Jason Valentine. He can be reached at: valentij@newton.berkeley.edu.]

[“Jaipur Blasts: Woman Suicide Bomber Suspected,”](#) *The Times of India* [New Delhi], May 14, 2008.

Indian authorities are looking for a woman, who attempted to lure a rickshaw puller shortly before the deadly explosions in Jaipur, India on May 13, 2008.

Levitt, Matthew and Michael Jacobson, [“Highlighting al Qaeda’s Bankrupt Ideology,”](#) *The Washington Institute for Near East Policy* [Washington], May 7, 2008.

The authors say the United States needs to have a refocused communications plan that highlights the bankruptcy of al Qaeda’s ideology.

Olsen, Tarjei Kidd. [“My Daughter, the Terrorist,”](#) *Asia Times Online* [Hong Kong], May 9, 2008.

A Norwegian documentary film follows two 24-year-old women training to become suicide bombers as members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). One third of the Tigers are women. According to the film (*My Daughter the Terrorist*), about 300 hundred suicide bombings are alleged to have been committed by the Black Tigers, Darshika and Puhachudar’s elite Tamil Tiger squad founded in 1987.

Ramachandran, Sudha. [“India Braces for Surge in Terror,”](#) *Asia Times Online* [Hong Kong], May 15, 2008.

This article quotes intelligence contacts in India who discuss infiltration of terrorists from across the border in Pakistan into India. They believe this activity will increase as summer progresses and more attacks like the ones at Jaipur on May 13, 2008 can be expected.

Shahzad, Syed Saleem. [“US Trains Pakistani Killing Machine,”](#) *Asia Times Online* [Hong Kong], May 8, 2008.

This article describes a shift in US training for the Pakistani military. The author asserts that the emphasis is now on creation and training of Pakistani Special Forces units. [Researcher Note: The author is the periodical’s Pakistan Bureau Chief. He can be reached at: Saleem_shahzad2002@yahoo.com.]

[“SPARK Programs Robots with Insect Perception,”](#) *Gizmag* [St Kilda South, Victoria, Australia], May 12, 2008.

The European Union-funded SPARK project has developed a perceptual control architecture that allows robots to adapt to cluttered and changing environments and to learn from experience. The design is based on the neural processes of insects. It allows

robots to form a unique, abstract representation of the environment and modulate their behavior accordingly. Designers believe the capability may have excellent applications for robots in disaster or war zones.

West, Sunguta. “[Strategy of Somalia’s Islamists Survives Death of Militant Leader](#),” *The Jamestown Foundation* [Washington], May 6, 2008.

Anti-terrorism officials in the Horn of Africa discuss events following the killing of Shaykh Aden Hashi Ayro, the military leader of al-Shabaab, the youth wing of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in Somalia, in a May 1 strike.

“[World: RFE/RL Study Explores How Al-Qaeda Exploits Internet](#),” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* [New York], April 8, 2008.

A new study by Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty examines how al Qaeda-affiliated groups use the Internet to spread their message of global jihad. This latest study focuses on the relationships between armed groups and the different teams that produce “jihadist media.” [Researcher Note: The full 28-page report can be found at:

http://docs.rferl.org/en-US/AQ_Media_Nexus.pdf.]

Zeitvogel, Karin. “[Sharp Rise in Suicide Attacks by Women in Iraq Likely: US Expert](#),” *Yahoo! News*, May 5, 2008.

A terrorism expert says that as many women carried out suicide attacks in Iraq so far this year as in the five previous years combined, and attacks by women are expected to spike again in the coming months.

ARTICLES



Acquiring Women's Rights in Saudi Arabia: Between Gradualism and Haste

Raghida Dergham *Al-Hayat* 09/05/08

Riyadh -- During the relatively historic National Experts Meeting on Domestic Violence held at the Marriott Hotel in Riyadh, a glass shield was installed to separate the male and female sides of the audience.

The meeting was historic because it was the first of its type to openly address domestic violence, including sexual violence against women, and because the program to eliminate domestic violence was established by royal decree.

Were it not for political will, such a program would have never seen the light, and neither males nor females would have met under the same roof with nothing separating between them but a low wall of glass, an accomplishment by all means in the long and difficult path to openness and breaking the walls of gender segregation!

Desegregation in hospitals between male and female doctors is permissible, as female autopsy teachers and students from the opposite sex revealed. But those female doctors and professors participating in such a progressive convention have almost rejoiced at the glass shield, as they compare it to the separate closed rooms where members of the two sexes could only convene through low-quality video screens during regular seminars.

Ultimately, the status of women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains different in contrast to the status of women in the rest of the world, including Arab women in several Arab countries. However, the developments in the Kingdom are stimulating evident curiosity among Western media, which constantly perceives the Saudi woman's path as a barometer indicating whether change will be short-lived or will be institutionalized, as women and human rights organizations wish.

Coincidentally and in parallel with the two-day meeting on domestic violence, the "Scientific Seminar on the History of King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz" convened at the Intercontinental Hotel along with an exhibition on the late King organized by Al-Faisal family and descendants of both sexes. The memorial photograph included only sons and grandsons though the seminar and the documents clearly indicated that King Faisal and Queen Effat have raised in tandem the banner of educating girls and establishing the model school for mixed education.

Today, Princess Loulwa bint Faisal chairs the Dar al-Hanan School and the Effat College board of trustees. She co-chairs with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton, the World Economic Forum's C-100. The chairpersonship was assigned to Princess Loulwa who was nominated by her brother Prince Turki al-Faisal, in a move approved by King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz and perceived as a symbolic precedent with significant implications.

Princess Effat's upbringing in Ataturk's Turkey where she was born before returning to the Kingdom at the age of 16 (she is of Saudi origin from Al-Thunayyan family) may have had an impact on King Faisal's perceptions of the education of girls and desegregation in secondary schools even though Islamic education enjoyed a much higher position among the King's priorities. The relationship between the two was based on respect and openness and was translated into the desire to entrench these two values in society.

Several factors obstructed this desire. These factors were the subject of debate, as the participants in the meeting discussed the background, causes, and elements behind the declining respect for women's fundamental rights and the hindered openness to religious regulations and legislations that offer women basic protection against the violations of men who have used religious traditions to achieve selfish goals.

A part of the women who belong to the openness-to-education generation under King Faisal and who later became degree-holding professionals is angry. These women are angry at the "step-by-step" gradual approach to acquiring self-evident rights of women. They are also angry at the "delight" of their comrades with the separating glass shield. Another part insists that the Saudi environment can only tolerate a gradual approach to attaining women's rights patiently and diligently, away from the media, and yes...celebrating the glass shield because, as one participant put it, "at least we now breathe the same air."

One of the women upset with the slow gradual approach says, "So many decisions and initiatives have been made, only to die in the crib because of the absence of administrative institutions. Institutionalism does not exist. Everyone behaves according to his cultural, tribal or regional nature and background." She adds that what practically happens is "one step forward and ten backward." Hence, "gradual change is not successful; we need a set of laws and a system to protect us."

According to this opinion, "no progress in science, education and health can be achieved without desegregation. Isolation is tantamount to backwardness and will persist even if the segregating wall is made of glass." This view admits that "something new is happening and there is change, namely the state's policy to improve the status of women." Those who embrace this view, however, speak of the control exercised by the clergy over the decisions issued or to be issued by the state. They refer in particular to the tradition of guardianship.

Dr. Asia Al-Ruwaf, who has been standing next to men inside the surgery room for 27 years and established a ward for pediatric surgery, blames the religious tide which started in 1979 with the Khomeini revolution in Iran and left direct marks on the progress of women everywhere. She says, "The problem lies in customs not in religion or law." She points out to "the divide in the religious voice between the hardliners and the moderates who are closer to the reformist

movement." She sums up the situation as follows: "The politicians side with women, the clergy are divided, and the public still side with the hard-line religious current."

According to news from Riyadh reported in *Al-Hayat* this week, dwellers of Saudi mosques will notice new expressions such as "human rights" uttered by preachers during Friday prayers, "as the Ministry of Islamic Affairs vowed to mobilize its imams and preachers to spread awareness about human rights as part of a new partnership with the official rights entity." The task will cover this time the rights of children, girls, wives and servants.

According to the international definition of human rights, the concept of guardianship, like gender segregation, opposes the fundamental human rights. The Saudi woman is subjected to these practices because traditions - not religion or laws - require that she demand permission from her father, brother, husband, or son, even when she is in need of urgent healthcare, not just in matters of travel, education, work, and marriage. In confronting domestic violence, a woman has to practically seek her husband's permission to file a complaint against him.

None of this is the result of enacted laws but rather, the result of the lack of legislation that bars these violations and practices. This is exactly what the Saudi woman is gradually breaking down to eliminate the discrimination against her and to develop herself into a member of society that deserves respect and protective laws prohibiting such humiliating practices. Hence, women themselves are not divided over the need for change.

Yet, they disagree over the pace of change. In the eyes of some women, the participation of businesswomen in the official delegation that accompanies King Abdullah on official visits represents an unprecedented move that highlights the significant official support for women and proves King Abdullah's determination to support women in the path of change.

The advocates of gradual change believe that hasty change could be counterproductive, whereas gradual change offers more guarantees for women's rights. They speak of the importance of raising awareness among men and women alike. They say that there is no need to clash with the opposition, since the path is paved for change. As such, there is no need to rush things and end with a confrontation.

One woman underlines the importance of focusing on women's needs to have these needs met calmly and given the necessary care instead of being turned into a matter of rhetoric. The Breast Cancer Association, for example, established by Dr. Suad bin Amer and now headed by Princess Haifa al-Faisal, is a leading association in the region specialized in raising awareness, assisting female patients and setting up testing centers for women.

Led by its Secretary General Princess Moudi bint Khalid bin Abdul Aziz, Al-Nahda Association currently deals with girl unemployment and women empowerment as a means to help women retrieve the economic value they once enjoyed before the oil boom.

In turn, the executive officer of the National Family Safety Program (NFSP), Dr. Maha bint Abdullah al-Munif, concluded the National Experts Meeting on Domestic Violence by reading 22 recommendations reached by the male and female participants, including judges, police

officers, lawyers, and psychiatrists. The first recommendation was the recognition of domestic violence cases in the Kingdom in such a magnitude that draws concern and demands immediate intervention to confront and prevent such practices.

Recognizing and speaking openly about these phenomena is in itself a matter of change.

However, the recommendations demand actions and not mere recognition and admission. Efforts must be exerted to incriminate all kinds of domestic violence harmful to the victim or her family, and to impose reinforcing and deterring penalties against the perpetrator.

There is talk about compulsory reporting of assaults, protection to informants, and punishment of perpetrators. There is talk about the need to set up administrations that prevent and counter domestic violence, administrations that would promote cooperation within all concerned ministries and official institutions thanks to efficient mechanisms. Next year's plan of action will also focus on training and rehabilitating professionals engaged in domestic violence cases and on obliging workers in security entities to receive complaints. There are also recommendations to publish a Sharia'a-compliant log of personal status in the Kingdom to limit domestic violence.

The recommendations also demand the activation of family courts to rule on cases of domestic violence.

This is not the first time that the issue of violence against women, children and the elderly is discussed in the Arab region. However, this is the first time that men and women speak out in Saudi Arabia about these matters. Princess Adila, King Abdullah's daughter who sponsors the program says, "We are benefiting from the Arab and western experiences because they have achieved far more progress than us."

She specifically refers to Jordan, Yemen and Tunisia, where Arab expertise are of help. She adds that several steps are being taken in different areas, from public affairs to economics, to test the Saudi woman's qualification and responsibility as a new partner in national development. Half the population, about 49%, is female. Half the population, she adds, is under 15 years of age, and society cannot move forward by relying on one half.

Be it slow or fast, this process is part of the change underway in the Kingdom. Women are now part of change as a result of a serious political decision, a fact that must be acknowledged and encouraged. Incorporating the talk about human rights into religious preaching is commendable. However, the slow pace remains an enemy threatening the path of change, as it leaves it vulnerable to the forces that resisted and continues to resist this kind of change.

The best deterrent that offers protection for gradual change lies in the quick enactment of laws. It is also the best deterrent against those who mistakenly think that traditions offer them permanent immunity and impunity. Let the removal of the glass shield be gradual one step at a time, but let it be accompanied by a quicker enactment of laws and laying of institutional foundations.

<http://english.daralhayat.com/opinion/OPED/05-2008/Article-20080509-ce398bcf-c0a8-10ed-01e2-5c73fc2a614f/story.html>



The Middle East's Leading English Language Daily

Al-Ashaikh Urges Imams to Tackle Terror, Extremism

MAKKAH, 10 May 2008 — Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Saleh Al-Ashaikh said that imams and Friday preachers in the Kingdom's mosques do not deal with the topic of terror and extremism in their speeches unless ordered to by the ministry.

"Khatibs only speak about the need to shun misguided ideologies and terrorism when they receive instructions from the ministry. They do not discuss the subject until another instruction is issued," said Al-Ashaikh. "This is not the right method. A preacher should know that it is his religious duty to speak out against terror and misguided ideologies as he is aware of what the Shariah says on the matter," Al-Ashaikh said.

"Their attitude is wrong. Preachers should be spurred by their conscience and act with a sense of responsibility without waiting for a circular from the ministry to discuss the issue," he said.

"When a preacher believes in what he is saying and is in the need of uprooting extremist ideologies his words will be sincere and strongly influence the people," he added.

In a related development, Mustafa Makhdoum, dean of the Higher Institute for Imams and Khatibs at Taiba University, said the institute aims to produce a generation of moderate religious preachers who would be skilled in modern methods of communication. Speaking at a function to mark a two-week course for imams and preachers in Taif on Wednesday, Makhdoum said, "The graduates of the institute are known for being moderate and their ability to influence people. They warn people of the dangers of extremist and misguided ideologies.

"The institute strives to remove misunderstandings in the mindset of traditional preachers besides helping them acquire modern skills of communication, thus enabling them to present their ideas in an effective style."

He added that 55 imams and preachers, and a number of members from the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice attended the course. The dean stressed the need to appoint full-time preachers at mosques who would be able to devote their full attention to their congregation. He added that there was a need to put preachers through workshops and orientation courses.

"Preachers should understand contemporary issues and be able to identify the problems faced by different levels of the people," he said.

<http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1§ion=0&article=109763&d=10&m=5&y=2008>

THE HINDU

Centre points at 'neighbouring' country for Jaipur blasts

May 14, 2008

Jaipur-New Delhi (PTI): As fresh leads into the terror attack in the Pink city increasingly pointed to involvement of Bangladesh-based HuJI, the Centre on Wednesday did not rule out the hand of a "neighbouring" country in the serial blasts that left at least 63 killed.

With people of Jaipur still coming to terms with the unprecedented terror strike, Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said the eight serial blasts that ripped through crowded areas and near a Hanuman temple were the handiwork of an organised "international terrorist gang" to create communal tension. The death toll rose to 63 and is likely to go up, an official said, adding nearly 130 injured persons were undergoing treatment in hospitals.

As investigators sifted for clues, police said eight persons including a man injured in the blasts and a rickshaw puller are being questioned. However, no arrests have been made so far, police said.

High explosive RDX was used in the terror strike and the explosive devices were fitted with timers and planted on cycles, a modus operandi similar to the one used in last year's blasts in court premises in Uttar Pradesh in which Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami (HUJI) was involved, police said.

After visiting the site of explosions, Union Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal said in Delhi the blasts in the walled city smacked of a "deep-rooted and very well-planned conspiracy" by a "neighbouring country" but refused to say he was pointing to Pakistan.

Jaiswal, however, suggested the bombings were connected to previous attacks in India. He said the blasts were carried out with the help of high intensity explosives like RDX or by using Ammonium Nitrate.

Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel were deployed in the city to prevent any communal incidents while daylong curfew was imposed in 15 police station areas.

Without specifying any country that could have any link with the terror strike, Jaiswal told a press conference in Delhi that it could be any of the neighbouring countries -- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Myanmar -- that were facing internal turmoil.

To a specific query whether HuJI was behind yesterday's attack, he remained evasive, merely saying that those involved would be "thoroughly exposed" very soon.

Jaiswal said there could be a link between the Jaipur blast and those that had occurred in Varanasi, Faizabad, Ajmer and Hyderabad in the past. In most cases the hand of HuJI was suspected.

The Minister said though the outfit behind the incident aimed to disturb the communal harmony, it failed in its mission.

The kind of timer devices recovered from the scene of blasts and the planned coordinated strikes within a span of 12 minutes clearly showed that only an international terror group could be behind it, Raje said in Jaipur.

Raje, who heads a BJP government, favoured a strong law like POTA to deal with terror attacks in the country.

There are some "slender leads" on which the state agencies are working and it is difficult to name any terror outfit at present, she said.

Home Minister Shivraj Patil said in Shillong the Centre had definite leads on the "elements" behind the terror attack.

Additional Director General of Police (Crime) A K Jain said "It was a cent per cent a terrorist attack on the pattern of blasts in the court premises in UP in November last year. RDX was used in containers tagged to cycles along with timer devices."

An examination of the blast sites indicated that the bombs were filled with ball bearings and small iron pieces to act as splinters, sources close to the investigation said. A National Security Guards (NSG) team has rushed from Delhi to help in finding out the nature of the materials used to carry out the blasts.

HUJI may have been able to form sleeper cells in Rajasthan, the sources said.

"We have collected sufficient evidence from the places of the blasts. They are being analysed by our technical experts," Superintendent of Police, Jaipur, Raghvendra Suhasa said. One live bomb was defused and is being closely studied, police said.

Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta told reporters in Delhi that "our priority now apart from vigilance and being on the alert will be to get hold of the people responsible" for the blasts.

Sources said the blasts triggered in areas close to two Hanuman temples in the old city could have been aimed at disturbing communal peace.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/000200805141761.htm>

NewScientistTech

Gamers teach search engines how to see

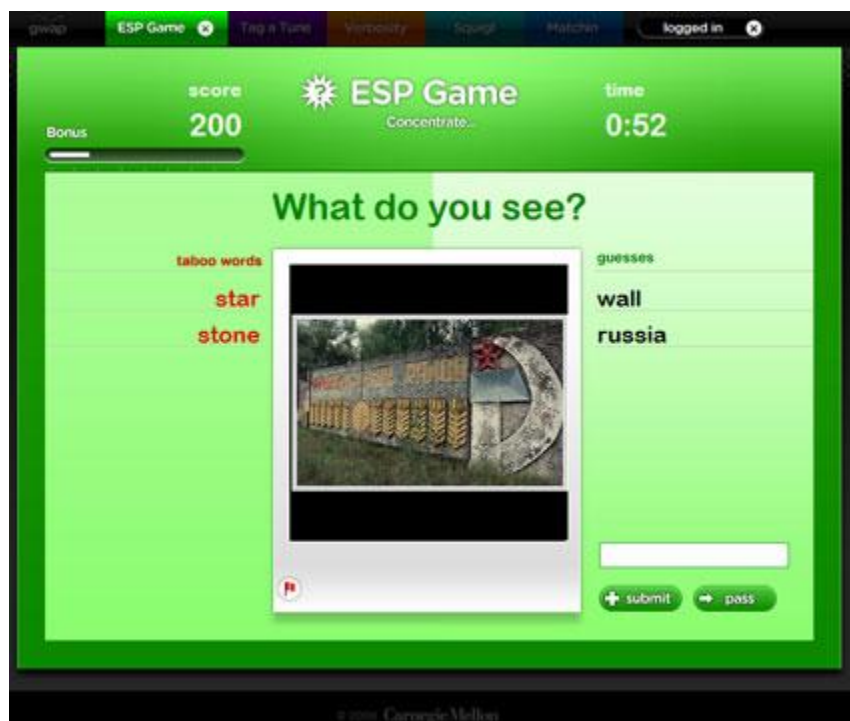
Colin Barras, *NewScientist.com* news service, 14 May 2008

Playing computer games can now achieve more than just the rosy glow of a high score. A new multiplayer website launching today could help "teach" computers to recognise images and music just like people can.

Giving machines those abilities could help shift search results from relying on word or link counting, to being based on the material's content.

Luis von Ahn at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has devised five "games with a purpose". Each pits two players against each other, asking them to second-guess the other's responses to a particular media file.

For instance, in the "ESP Game", both players are shown the same image. The first player types a keyword they associate with it, and the second player has to guess that word. The result is a dataset of images tagged with the features people see or associate with them.



The GWAP site gets players to tag pictures or music with keywords. The system should help search engines learn to analyse media files themselves

Training session

That human-generated data can be used by a search engine to intelligently "tag" the image exactly as a human would, says von Ahn. "Then the next step would be to use that database to train computers to tag the images themselves," he says.

In another game, "Tag a Tune", both players hear an audio file and try to describe it in a few words. From those descriptions, the players are asked to guess whether they are both listening to the same file or not.

Von Ahn's interest in the differences between how computers and humans can understand images led to his developing the CAPTCHA software that has become central to web security protocols.

Friend or foe

It asks viewers to decipher some distorted text to verify they are a human, not a software "bot" trying to access sensitive areas of a website for nefarious purposes.

He hopes that his new games will become as popular. "We have tested these games with a lot of people and have found that they are quite enjoyable as compared to other "casual games"," he says.

"Whether this succeeds or fails is likely to rest on the incentives to play," says David Wortley, director of the Serious Games Institute at Coventry University, UK. CAPTCHA is successful because users are motivated to complete the word puzzle to, say, register a new account.

Play dating

Wortley says finding ways to motivate people to play von Ahn's new games could help them take off. "You could tie these games in with websites which test compatibility with a partner – dating sites, for instance," he says.

A version of the ESP Game has already been licensed by Google under the name Google Image Labeler, to improve their search results. But that raises ethical questions, thinks Stuart Middleton at the University of Southampton, UK.

"It's a novel idea, as long as people playing the games are aware that their answers are being used in this way," he says. "It's unethical if they are not informed."

Von Ahn agrees: "All data we collect from the new site will be freely and publicly available," he says. "And we make no effort in trying to hide the real purpose of this site – even the name is a give-away."

<http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn13896-gamers-teach-search-engines-how-to-see.html>



PolicyWatch #1371

Highlighting al-Qaeda's Bankrupt Ideology

By Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson

May 7, 2008

According to recent U.S. government reports and senior U.S. counterterrorism officials, contesting al-Qaeda's message is no less important than capturing or killing the group's operatives.

And as the administration prioritizes its agenda for the last eight months in office, recognizing the need for a refocused communication plan to highlight the bankruptcy of al-Qaeda's ideology is a critical -- albeit overdue -- part of a reengineered counterterrorism strategy.

"All Elements of National Power"

The State Department's 2007 *Country Reports on Terrorism* and recent speeches by senior officials indicate that the U.S. government's communication strategy for combating al-Qaeda's ideology has shifted considerably in two respects. First, there is increased recognition that communication must be an integral part of counterterrorism strategy.

As Ambassador Dell Dailey, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, recently noted, "Communication should...be used by the United States and its allies to shape perceptions, build allies, and dissuade potential terrorists. This must be a central component in U.S. strategy because it influences attitudes and behavior."

According to Deputy National Security Advisor Juan Zarate, this is particularly true when it comes to al-Qaeda, whose leaders are "sensitive to the perceived legitimacy of both their actions and their ideology. They care about their image because it has real-world effects on recruitment, donations, and support in Muslim and religious communities."

While the U.S. government paid attention to its communication strategy in the first few years following the September 11 attacks, counterterrorism officials were far more focused on capturing or killing terrorists. Today contesting al-Qaeda's ideology is an integral part of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy.

Focus on Terrorists

Although the "struggle of ideas in the Islamic world" section of the State Department report still focuses on the U.S. government's attempts to explain its policies and values, its message has undergone a serious overhaul. The initial U.S. approach in the wake of the September 11 attacks was to try and sell the United States to overseas audiences, an approach widely regarded as ineffective in stemming the tide of radicalization. Efforts now concentrate on discrediting the terrorists.

The United States has gone about this using a two-fold approach. As National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) director Michael Leiter suggests, the United States is trying to point out "how bankrupt" al-Qaeda's ideology is, and demonstrate that "it is al-Qaeda, and not the West, that is truly at war with Islam" by highlighting the extent to which Muslims are victims of the organization's attacks.

At a press conference releasing the State Department report, both Ambassador Dailey and NCTC deputy director Russ Travers emphasized that more than 50 percent of the victims of al-Qaeda attacks last year were Muslim, in addition to the approximately 100 targeted mosques.

In general, the United States is trying to highlight the fact that al-Qaeda is a merciless and cruel organization whose tactics -- such as deploying mentally deficient people as suicide bombers -- are repugnant. As Leiter argued, "showing the barbarism of groups like al-Qaeda in the light of truth is, ultimately, our strongest weapon."

The United States is now even using this approach to try and give al-Qaeda second thoughts about using a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). Leiter pointed out that people in the Muslim world are already turning against al-Qaeda, and "no barbarism could be greater than the use of WMD." While the early results of this new approach are promising, as Department of Homeland Security undersecretary Charles Allen noted, at this point, "no Western state has effectively countered the al-Qaeda narrative."

Shrinking al-Qaeda Down to Size

After years of emphasizing the seriousness of the terrorist threat, the United States is now concerned that the widespread view of a resurgent al-Qaeda may be helping the organization recruit new members. As Ambassador Dailey stated, one of al-Qaeda's goals is to "create a perception of a worldwide movement more powerful than it actually is." Consequently, the United States seems to be making a concerted effort to avoid contributing to this phenomenon.

In fact, while acknowledging that the organization is resurgent in its safe haven along Pakistan's Afghan border, a number of senior administration officials have begun to predict victory. Zarate, for example, cited a number of "important signs that mark progress and point to the eventual demise of al-Qaeda." In an April speech at Chatham House in London, FBI Director Robert Mueller suggested that al-Qaeda would be destroyed within a matter of years, not decades.

An International -- Not Just American -- Problem

While the report makes clear that American targets remain a high priority for al-Qaeda, it also highlights the fact that the United States is not alone atop the target list. The 2004 Madrid attacks, the 2005 London attacks, and the recently thwarted plots in Germany, England, and Scotland demonstrate that Europe faces an equally serious threat.

In fact, a review of the State Department report and the European Union's 2007 terrorism report (issued by Europol, the EU's law enforcement organization) reveals that Americans and Europeans now see the nature of the threat in similar terms.

For example, both reports focus on the danger posed by al-Qaeda's resurgence in Pakistan's tribal areas. According to the EU report, al-Qaeda-linked terrorist cells were uncovered in Denmark and Germany in 2007.

As a result, the Europol report explains that the EU no longer views al-Qaeda as merely a threat to the UK, with its large expatriate Pakistani community, but to other European countries as well. More recently, a suspected terrorist network comprised almost entirely of Pakistanis was discovered in Spain.

After the cell was arrested, a Spanish judge commented that, "In my opinion, the jihadi threat from Pakistan is the biggest emerging threat we are facing in Europe."

Conclusion

Refocusing U.S. efforts to include a robust strategic communication blueprint is a critical component of an overall counterterrorism strategy. Arresting and killing operatives alone does little to counter the disturbingly effective radicalization campaign through which al-Qaeda and like-minded groups build both physical and virtual support networks.

To effectively engage in this transnational battle of ideas, the U.S. and allied governments will have to work in concert -- something easier said than done. Despite their shared views of the terrorist threat, U.S. officials worry that the United States and Europe still approach counterterrorism in fundamentally different ways.

In a speech at Kansas State University in April, CIA Director Michael Hayden referred to a "transatlantic divide" between the United States and Europe on counterterrorism issues.

In Hayden's opinion, the Europeans "tend not to view terrorism as we do, as an overwhelming international challenge.

Or if they do, we often differ on what would be effective and appropriate to counter it." Europeans, meanwhile, describe cyberspace as one of the most critical battlefields in the war on terror, and note with significant frustration that many of the worst offending terrorist propaganda websites are still hosted in the United States.

America's new strategic communication battle plan is a strong step in the right direction. Finding ways to get this new message out to the right audiences in Europe, America, Asia, Africa, and

the Middle East will require a renewed dedication to transnational cooperation in a war that will be increasingly fought on a virtual battlefield.

Matthew Levitt is a senior fellow and director of the Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute. Michael Jacobson is a senior fellow in the program. Over the past few months, they have hosted a lecture series featuring senior U.S. government counterterrorism officials, including the above mentioned Michael Leiter, Juan Zarate, Charles Allen, and Dell Dailey.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=2836>



South Asia

India braces for surge in terror

By Sudha Ramachandran

May 15, 2008

BANGALORE - The serial blasts that killed 80 people and injured 200 in the western Indian city of Jaipur on Tuesday occurred less than a week after a major infiltration attempt by militants was thwarted on the international border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir state.

That incident set off a heavy exchange of fire along the border, the first major flare-up since an India-Pakistan ceasefire took effect in 2003.

Intelligence contacts have told *Asia Times Online* that while there is "no direct cause-effect link" between the incidents on the border and the Jaipur blasts, the former indicate that "infiltration from across the border in Pakistan will increase as summer progresses and more attacks like the ones at Jaipur can be expected".

The contacts point out that in a week from now, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee goes to the Pakistani capital Islamabad for his first interaction with the new government there. The "composite dialogue" between the countries, in cold storage for several months, will be revived.

The possibility of elements in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) seeking to disrupt this process with terror attacks in India cannot be ruled out. The ISI is known to have acted in the past to weaken initiatives by democratic governments in Pakistan to normalize relations with India. Pakistan only ended nearly eight years of military rule with parliamentary elections in February.

Any surge in violence is unlikely to be restricted to Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past couple of years, jihadi groups have clearly indicated that their agenda extends across India. They have carried out attacks in places as far apart as Ajmer, Panipat, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Varanasi, Rampur, Lucknow, Delhi, Mumbai, Gandhinagar, Faizabad, Ayodhya, Malegaon and now Jaipur. There are now few states in India that have not fallen under the shadow of the jihadis.

In 2007, outside Jammu and Kashmir and the turbulent northeast and excluding deaths due to Maoist violence in the country, civilian deaths from terrorist attacks ran into several hundreds.

No terror outfit has so far claimed responsibility for Tuesday's blasts in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan state, although about a dozen suspects have been detained. Intelligence contacts say

the needle of suspicion points to the Harkat-ul Jihad al-Islami (HuJI) and the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), with Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) operatives providing the local logistical support.

The HuJI is a Bangladesh-based jihadi outfit and the LeT is Pakistan-based. Both have links with al-Qaeda and are constituents of the International Islamic Front, an umbrella organization founded by Osama bin Laden in 1998.

The string of eight blasts occurred on the 10th anniversary of India's nuclear tests at Pokhran, 500 kilometers from Jaipur. Noted terrorism expert B Raman said the "blasts could be to send across the message that India may have nuclear power, but you are powerless against terrorism".

The significance of the date notwithstanding, it does seem that the blasts were aimed at stirring communal trouble rather than sending out a message - there are a large number of Hindu temples in the vicinity of the attacks.

A curfew has been declared in parts of Jaipur to prevent the eruption of riots. The blast sites are close to the communally sensitive Ranganj area, which witnessed communal riots in 1992 following the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya by Hindu hardliners.

Although this is the first terrorist attack ever in Jaipur, Rajasthan is no stranger to terrorist activity. The state borders Pakistan. Consignments of cartridges, explosives and detonators have been interdicted in the past in the state. Intelligence sources say the SIMI, a banned outfit, has sleeper cells in Rajasthan.

In October last year, a powerful bomb blast occurred in a highly revered Sufi shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisthi in Ajmer, 135 kilometers southwest of Jaipur. That blast left two people dead and 17 others injured.

Located 265 kilometers to the west of the capital Delhi, Jaipur is also known as the "Pink City" for the color of its stucco buildings. It is a popular tourist destination; several thousand tourists visit Jaipur every day. Almost 60% of foreign tourists visiting India drop in at this city.

Emerging patterns

Terror attacks in India over the past couple of years indicate that terrorists are targeting Hindu and Muslim places of worship and crowded areas to stir communal passions and trigger Hindu-Muslim riots.

The eight powerful bomb blasts that rocked Jaipur took place within 13 minutes of each other and occurred in the city's most crowded areas, in markets, near historic monuments and places of worship.

Indeed, the blasts confirm another feature of this worrying pattern. Temples are being targeted on Tuesdays (an auspicious day for Hindus) and mosques and shrines are being attacked on Fridays, when thousands of Muslims go to the mosque to offer special prayers.

A blast at Varanasi's Sankat Mochan Temple on March 7, 2006, a Tuesday, left 28 dead and over a 100 injured. The blasts occurred at the time of the *aarti* (a prayer ritual, which thousands attend) when the temple was packed with devotees.

Low intensity blasts occurred at Delhi's Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, on April 14, 2006, a Friday, even as Muslims were preparing for evening prayers.

A blast occurred at a mosque in Malegaon and an adjacent Muslim cemetery on September 8, 2006, a Friday. The day was Shab-e-barat (night of salvation), a festival when Muslims visit graveyards to offer night-long prayers for their dead relatives. Blasts in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid on May 18, 2007, a Friday, during prayers killed a dozen people.

And now the blasts at Jaipur, near temples, on a Tuesday and at the time of the evening *aarti*. Clearly, those behind these attacks aim at stirring communal passions and riots by targeting places of worship at a time when people are praying.

Just as there is a pattern in the terror attacks, so also is there a pattern in the response of the government. Every attack is followed by profound observations that it is the work of terrorists. Top politicians express "deep regret" and anger at the "dastardly attack" and are quick to quash the rage of victims' families with offers of financial compensation.

Officials speedily reach conclusions regarding who carried out the attack within a couple of hours, if not minutes, of the incident. Senior ministers used to invariably blame and name Pakistan, now they are more circumspect, pointing an accusing finger at a "foreign hand".

Within days of the blasts, the matter is forgotten, until the next terror attack happens and the same drama is enacted.

Police blame politicians for politicizing national security and for refusing to give the police a free hand in making arrests. Indeed, political parties with an eye on votes stand in the way of arrests or action against extremist outfits.

But the police are as much to blame. Their unprofessional approach is on public display every time bombs rip through Indian cities. Blast sites are never cordoned off to the public. Within minutes of a blast, it is not uncommon to see media and the public walking unhampered through the site. Investigations that follow then are unlikely to be any more professional.

Intelligence sources argue that it is unfair to blame security agencies as they are successful in preventing many attacks. They also point out that policing a country such as India is very difficult. Indeed, ensuring foolproof security in crowded Indian cities and railway stations is a near-impossible task. This becomes more daunting given the deficiencies in manpower of the police and intelligence agencies.

Despite several reports recommending augmentation of manpower in police and intelligence agencies, upgrading of electronic and other surveillance and better coordination between various security agencies, little has been done to put these recommendations into effect.

And yet the government does not see a problem, or rather does not want to admit to it. In a statement to the Upper House of parliament, the government said on April 30 that "the overall internal security situation has remained largely under control".

It is in a state of denial.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/JE15Df02.html



Israel startup uses behavioral science to identify terrorists

By Guy Grimland, May 9, 2008

The wave of suicide bombings that swept over Israel in 2003 pushed the founders of WeCu Technologies into searching for a way to identify terrorists before they take action.

Quietly, even stealthily, this unknown company has been working for five years now on one of the more interesting technological innovations to be created in these parts.

WeCU ("We see you," in case you are unaccustomed to SMS-speak) promises an automated system to detect people with mayhem on their minds. The system integrates methods and doctrines from the behavioral sciences with biometric sensors.

According to the company's founders, in under a minute it can screen an individual, without his or her knowledge or cooperation and without interfering with routine activities, and disclose intentions to carry out criminal or terror activity. It can identify subjects who are not carrying any suspicious objects, do not demonstrate any suspicious behavior, do not fit into a predefined social or other profile and do not arouse any suspicion.

Unlike systems currently in use, such as polygraphs or biometric systems based on identifying an individual under emotional pressure, WeCU does not attempt to determine whether the subject is lying, concealing information, under stress or feeling guilty. Instead, it seeks to identify concealed intentions by uncovering an associative connection between the subjects and defined threats.

Guilt by association

It may sound like science fiction, but the people behind the system are known to be more involved in science fact. The company founders include Prof. Shlomo Breznitz, a professor of psychology whose research specialization is stress situations (and who is also a former Knesset member from Kadima); Dr. Boaz Ganor, founder and executive director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya; WeCU CEO Ehud Givon; and Zipora (Zipi) Alster, an expert in the behavioral sciences. Until recently, the company underwrote its activities on its own, but recently a private investor stepped in with an injection of \$3 million.

How does it work? Givon explains: "The technology is patented. We take advantage of human characteristics, according to which when a person intends to carry out a particular activity or has a great acquaintance or involvement with a particular activity, he carries with him information

and feelings that are associated with the subject or activity. In effect, his brain creates a collection of associations that are relevant to the subject.

"When this person is exposed to stimuli targeted at these associations - such as a picture of a partner to the activity, items from the scene of a crime that he carried out, the symbol of the organization in whose name he is acting or a code word - he will respond emotionally and cognitively to these stimuli. The response is expressed with a number of very subtle physiological and behavioral changes during the exposure to the stimulus," Givon said.

He noted that in an individual who has not built up such associations, the stimuli will not elicit a significant response.

Fitting the threat

Givon points out that the bank of stimuli included in the system is varied and unpredictable:

"Even a skilled, well-practiced suspect who is aware of the system and who tries to prepare for the screening cannot know where the stimuli will come from and how they will appear."

The system consists of three components: Hidden biometric sensors that measure the subject remotely or during random contact; a system that displays the stimuli; and a computerized data analysis and decision-making system that operates in real time.

The system has been demonstrated to governmental authorities in Israel, the United States and Germany. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security showed particular interest in WeCU. Two research grants have been given to the system, in a relatively rare show of support for the development.

The developers say that mass production of the system is expected within two and a half years. Each unit is expected to cost tens of thousands of dollars.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/981986.html>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Jaipur blasts: Woman suicide bomber suspected

May 14, 2008

JAIPUR: The police have launched a massive hunt for a woman who allegedly promised Rs100,000 to a rickshaw puller to carry out the terror attacks that killed 80 people.

"We are looking for a woman, identified as Meena, who tried to lure a rickshaw puller, Vijay, to carry out the attacks," a police officer said on the condition of anonymity.

Vijay, a resident of Mumbai who suffered minor shrapnel injuries, told the police that Meena lives near one of the blast sites. No further details of the woman's role in the bombings were available.

According to the police, the first blast took place around 7.15 pm (local time) in the crowded Johari Bazaar. Within 15 minutes seven more blasts occurred in adjoining areas of the walled city.

The sites were near a Hanuman Mandir, which was milling with devotees, near the tourist attraction Hawa Mahal, at Badi Chaupad, Tripolia Bazar as well as Chandpole.

A team of Delhi Police's Special Cell, which fights terrorism, and officials from Maharashtra police's anti-terrorism squad have also arrived in Jaipur to assist the local police.

Inspector General of Police Pankaj Singh told reporters that a lethal combination of high velocity RDX explosives, ammonium nitrate and heavy pellets were used in the explosions.

"We cannot comment about the organisation behind the terrorist attack."

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Jaipur_blasts_Woman_bomber_suspected/articleshow/3039832.cms



Flies' eyes could enhance robot vision

May 9, 2008

Robots with flies' eyes could take advantage of the insect's vision system to better locate the edges and boundaries of objects. This ability could help robots perform a variety of tasks more quickly and accurately than if they were using traditional sensors.



Researchers have designed a sensor inspired by flies' compound eyes, which is capable of quickly locating the edges of objects. Image credit: D. Fischer.

Researchers from the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, California, and the University of Wyoming have developed a fiber optic sensor inspired by the compound eye of the common housefly, *Musca domestica*. One of the biggest advantages of the design is that it can quickly locate edges and boundaries of images.

Machines such as unmanned vehicles, guided missiles, and high-speed industrial inspection robots might take advantage of this ability to locate tiny, moving objects with high precision.

In a recent issue of *Bioinspiration & Biomimetics*, researchers D. Riley, et al., describe how flies' vision systems are uniquely geared toward locating small objects with high precision. In fact, flies possess a visual precision beyond the resolution limit – a property called hyperacuity. This feature is actually common to many animals, including humans.

“The fly has significant advantages with respect to tracking,” the researchers told *PhysOrg.com*. “As a system, the fly has very quick reaction times. ... They can react and track much better than untrained humans; however I would question that the quality of the rest of their vision is even comparable.” They added that, overall, insect vision (and sensor technology inspired by it) is still far inferior to human vision, and probably always will be.

The researchers explained that the more interesting component of the fly's vision system is that the field of view of each photoreceptor in a fly's eye overlaps with those next to it, with up to 90% overlap. Each eye contains about 3,000 ommatidia – the major structural unit of the eye – and each ommatidium contains eight photoreceptors. The photoreceptors' main function is to

convert light into ionic current, which then goes to the fly's processing system(s).

Unlike conventional image processing systems which are often digital, the fly's processing system is analog. Digital systems receive data pixel by pixel, and generally require time-consuming, computationally expensive processing. The analog system helps the fly extract edge information much more quickly, and also enables parallel processing. Both these features contribute to the fly's highly accurate, high-speed vision system.

The researchers designed their sensor to mimic the fly's overlapping photoreceptors and analog, parallel processing system. The sensor consists of a 1-mm-diameter ball lens that focuses light onto an array of photodetectors, where the field of view overlaps by about 70%. In experiments, the sensor could locate a 1-mm-wide string as the string moved across the field of vision at distances up to 200 mm from the lens, with minimal error.

Such a high-res vision system could have applications in a variety of medical, commercial, industrial, and defense areas. The researchers are currently fabricating a sensor that consists of seven ommatidia with seven photoreceptors, and hope to extend the design in scale and accuracy.

“We envision this sensor as a supplement to more traditional imaging sensors for most applications, and not as a replacement,” they explain. “Just as *Musca domestica* has both two compound eyes and a very simple camera eye, many computer and robot vision tasks can benefit from both types of sensors.”

<http://www.physorg.com/news129545593.html>



Kafir Dreams

By Jamie Glazov

FrontPageMagazine.com | 5/7/2008

Frontpage Interview's guest today is Bill Warner, the director of the Center for the Study of Political Islam (CSPI) and spokesman for PoliticalIslam.com.



FP: Bill Warner, welcome to Frontpage Interview.

Warner: Thank you Jamie.

FP: I'd like to talk to you today about how many of the names, words and phrases we use about Islam are muddled and incorrect. Many non-Muslims create certain terms about Islam to try to make the world seem safer and to feel good about themselves.

But many of these terms have no actual basis in Islamic theology or culture and have no real meaning in an Islamic context.

I think the best way to start this discussion is to begin with the term "moderate Muslim."

Warner: "Moderate Muslim" is a perfect example of the muddle and incorrect terminology that kafirs (unbelievers) use.

This term is intended to describe a Muslim who doesn't seem dangerous or advocate violence. But "moderate Muslim" is a non-Muslim name, one that kafirs made up.

The doctrine of Islam does talk about the different kinds of Muslims. The measure of a Muslim is the Koran and the Sunna. Anyone who follows these teachings is a moderate Muslim, by definition.

Islamic doctrine defines what is moderate and not moderate. Since we are dealing with Islam, we need to know that the doctrine is dualistic. Islam can have two doctrines about any issue. This follows from the Koran. The early Koran, which was written in Mecca, is generally religious. The Koran written in Medina is very political and includes jihad.

The two Korans are not only very different, but they also contradict each other in major ways.

So we have the possibility of two kinds of moderate Muslims, since we have two doctrines. Osama bin Laden is a moderate Muslim, who follows the Koran of Medina, the Koran of jihad. Kafirs call him an extremist or radical Muslim. Actually, Osama obeys the Koran of Medina and the Sunna of Mohammed, so he is a moderate, pious Medinan Muslim.

The jihadists on September 11, 2001 were all moderate Medinan Muslims. They were not extremists or radicals.

The other kind of moderate Muslim follows the Koran of Mecca and he is more generally what kafirs mean when they say “moderate Muslim”. But how moderate is a Meccan Muslim? A moderate Muslim thinks that you are a kafir, but he isn’t violent, just antagonistic.

FP: So tell us exactly what “kafir” means. We take it to mean unbeliever but I presume it is more complicated than that.

Warner: The usual translation of this Arabic word is unbeliever, but unbeliever is only a very small part of its meaning. It is the Koran that defines the word “kafir” and it says the most terrible things can happen to them. The Koranic doctrine about kafirs says they are hated and are Satan’s friends.

Kafirs can be robbed, killed, tortured, raped, mocked, cursed, condemned and plotted against. The Koran does not have one good thing to say about kafirs. (There are some pseudo-good words, but more about them later.)

For over the last 1400 years, 270 million kafirs have died as a result of the political doctrine of Islam. It is the biggest single source of suffering in the history of the world.

The word kafir is the worst word in the human language. It is far worse than the n-word, because the n-word is a personal opinion, whereas, kafir is Allah’s decree. Nearly two thirds of the Koran is devoted to the kafir. Islam is fixated on the kafir and the moderate Muslim thinks that you are a kafir. How moderate is that?

FP: I guess not very moderate.

Warner: Well the moderation does not stop there. A moderate Muslim follows Islamic ethics. Not only is the Koran a dualistic document, but also Islamic ethics are dualistic. Islam has one set of rules for Muslims and another set of rules for the kafirs. A Muslim does not lie, cheat, kill or harm another Muslim. But, if it will advance Islam, a kafir may be cheated, deceived, murdered, tortured and raped. Or a Muslim may treat a kafir like a brother.

It is the dualism of Islam that gives it such power. It has the entire good cop/bad cop psychology built into its very DNA. There have been other groups with dualistic ethics, the KKK for instance. But a member of the KKK hates all blacks all the time. There is a certain bald-faced

honesty in the hatred of the KKK. But Islam has the good cop face to the world most of the time. The bad cop is held in reserve the same way that a police detective carries a hidden weapon.

The ethical dualism means that Islam does not take part in the shared reciprocity of altruism.

As an example, Islam is very big on charity, but Islamic charity only goes to Muslims. When Saudi Arabia sent money to New Orleans after hurricane Katrina, the money only went to Muslims, not to suffering kafirs.

FP: Can you expand a bit on reciprocity of altruism?

Warner: Reciprocity of altruism [1] is the very basis of civilization. Islam does not share this trait. This is one of the reasons that Islam is not a part, nor can it be, of kafir civilization. Islam is built on different ethics and logic than the kafirs. Islam's dualistic ethics prohibit reciprocity of altruism. Islamic civilization and kafir civilization do not share similar values.

So a moderate non-violent Muslim thinks that you are a kafir and that a kafir does not have to be treated the same as another Muslim. The moderate Muslim (Islamic meaning) thinks that you are Allah's scum and you can be treated like trash. Or not (dualism always has options).

How can such a person be a true friend, if he believes the Koran. In some 14 verses, the Koran says that the Muslim is not the friend of a kafir. But what if the person actually is your friend? We can deal with this very important question if you wish.

In any case, the term moderate Muslim has two totally different meanings. The kafir meaning is warm, fuzzy and incorrect. The Islamic meaning is cruel, precise and correct.

FP: What are some other false kafir names?

Warner: Radical Muslim. Extremist Muslim. Reformed Islam.

What is a radical Muslim? A radical Muslim is capable of harming kafirs. A radical Muslim is a Medinan Muslim, but a Medinan Muslim follows Mohammed's actions. So killing kafirs is not radical. Harming kafirs follows Mohammed's example and is pure Islam, not a radical interpretation.

FP: So, overall, what is the real issue here?

Warner: Islam.

These false names used by kafirs are an attempt to humanize Islam. The kafirized naming tries to put the violence (radical, extremist) outside of Islam or suggest that violence is a bizarre interpretation of Islamic doctrine.

But Mohammed was involved in a violent episode on the average of every six weeks for his last nine years. Again, Mohammed defines moderation, and the violence is integral to Islam.

The doctrine of both religious and political Islam is based on dualism and submission. The religious doctrine is of no concern to a kafir. It is the politics that concerns kafirs.

Political Islam is based upon dualism and submission. All of humanity is divided into kafirs and Muslims, with not one good word for the kafirs.

Names like “moderate” and “good” are an attempt to link goodness and Islam. But there is no goodness in Islam for the kafir, only for another Muslim. This is extremely harsh, but it is a consequence of the doctrine of political Islam.

If you are well-read in the Islamic political doctrine, you may jump in and say that the Korans say positive things about Christians and Jews. These few good things are a very few sentences. It is sad to see how Muslims and apologists drag the pitiful few sentences out of the Koran to show the good in Islam for the kafirs. First, compared to the massive amount of hateful, hurtful and evil things said about the kafirs, the few good sentences are statistically insignificant.

But worst of all is that the good verses are contradicted by later doctrine. This is another aspect of dualism.

The doctrine of Islam is not static since it is based upon the life of Mohammed. The doctrine describes a process. The conclusion of that process was annihilation of the native Arab culture with not a single enemy of Mohammed left standing. In the end, there is no good in Islam for the kafir, nothing. That is the conclusion to the process of political Islam. Those “nice, tolerant” verses are temporary tactics to be used while Islam is weak.

Most kafirs treat the doctrine of Islam like a box of those magnetic words you can put on the refrigerator. By choosing the right words, they can make any sentence and any thought. But the doctrine of Islam is a very coherent story. It has a beginning, middle and an end. Islamic doctrine is taken from the life of Mohammed, not from a dictionary of unrelated facts. Indeed, the remarkable thing about Islamic doctrine is how systematic and logical it is. You can’t just reach in and take a sentence or verse here and there.

What is the most important thing about a story is its conclusion.

FP: And the conclusion is?

Warner: The conclusion is that political Islam is always bad for the kafir. In the end, all Christians and Jews must submit to Islam. That is the goodness of Islam for kafirs. As long as the kafirs submit to Islam’s demands, then Islam is good to them.

Dualism is the key to understanding Islam. On the surface many parts of the Koran contradict each other. The usual explanation is that the older, nicer verses are abrogated by the later verses. But in reality all of the Koran is true since it comes from the only god, Allah. Allah is perfection, and therefore, the contradictory statements in the Koran are all true. This violates Aristotelian kafir logic, but it defines the Islamic dualistic logic. In Islam two contradictory things can both be true at the same time. So for every one of those statistically insignificant “good” verses, each

one is weak, and the stronger harsh and violent verses are stronger. Contradictions are integral to Islamic logic.

To put a fine point on the previous claim—the only good for kafirs in the doctrine of political Islam is negated somewhere else.

FP: So what is the good of Islam?

Warner: Islam is the cause; Muslims are the effect. So if there is no good in Islam for a kafir, how is there any good in a Muslim for a kafir? There is not any good in a Muslim for kafirs. Cause and effect. But there can be good in people who call themselves Muslims.

Now we get to our central problem. There are some nice people who are Muslims, how do we explain this?

The doctrinal problem here is that a Muslim cannot be the friend of a kafir. The Koran says this 14 times. So if a friend is a Muslim, then that friendship has to be based on something other than Islam.

Notice that Islam has a strong core doctrine of mutual Muslims friendship; indeed the Koran says that Muslims are brothers and sisters to each other. And why can Muslims be friends? Because they are equal.

But a Muslim is not the political equal to a kafir because the Koran says that a Muslim is superior. So where does the good person who is a Muslim get his basis for friendship? The same place as everyone else does—from equality, the same equality that is inferred from the Golden Rule.

Treat others as you want to be treated.

Which others? All others, without exception. The Golden Rule implies the unity of humanity. There are no limits to its application.

The Golden Rule does not apply to Islam. Indeed, Islam denies the truth of the Golden Rule. The duality of Islam divides all humanity into Muslims and kafirs. There are no two groups more unequal than kafirs and Muslims.

FP: So what do we call the Muslim that is a friend of a non-believer?

Warner: The goodness in your Muslim friend comes from the kafir civilization, not Islam. Your friend is a kafirized Muslim, but he is not a good or a moderate Muslim. Remember, Osama bin Laden is a good and moderate Muslim.

FP: A kafirized Muslim. This is interesting. Expand for us please.

Warner: A kafirized Muslim is a new naming, but an old reality. For some reason, every analysis of Muslims assumes that they are completely Muslim, without any kafir in them. But Islam does not drive all Muslims in all aspects of their life. Kafir culture has some very appealing ideals and people who call themselves Muslims are attracted to the benevolence in it.

A true Muslim has absolutely no attraction to any aspect of kafir culture. The Koran and Sunna condemn 100% of kafir culture, so no Muslim has any desire to emulate kafirs. As soon as a person has any attraction to any aspect of kafir culture, they cease to be a Muslim and become kafir. That is the way the doctrine of Islam works.

The name kafirized Muslim is analytic and fits the data. But kafirized Muslim is more than a name; it is a new concept with some very profound consequences.

What are its advantages? It is better than any of the alternatives such as a “good Muslim”, a “moderate Muslim” or my “Muslim friend”. All of these names are an attempt to bring some good out of Islam. But, there is no good in Islam for kafirs, only for Muslims.

The name kafirized Muslim acknowledges a bridge between Islam and kafirs. It is bigoted to assume that every Muslim has all of their behavior based upon Islam. Islam may demand that a person be 100% governed by Islam, but the truth is that Muslims are people and as people they are capable of picking and choosing. What is wrong with acknowledging that Muslims can be part kafir? What is wrong by acknowledging that the Golden Rule attracts Muslims?

The word “Muslim” entraps a person into a small box. What we need to be able to do is recognize the person, not the Muslim. We live in a multicultural age where the majority culture is defined as oppressive. In order to distinguish yourself, you should be separated from the main body. Hence, a name like African-American exists. But these names come with a box. If you are African-American, you are supposed to have certain political and social views. Similarly, the name Muslim can become a narrow category for a person. A Muslim should only have certain views, or you are not a “real” Muslim.

The name kafirized Muslim acknowledges that we are dealing with a person, not a category.

The usual names, (good Muslim, moderate Muslim), attempt to credit the good found in Muslims to the doctrine of Islam. The term kafirized Muslim clearly states that the good comes from the kafirs, not Islam.

Now we get to the crux of the politics of the made-up naming. These names represent a desperate attempt to deal with the problem of Islamic threats, violence and destruction of kafir civilization. Very few people know much about either the doctrine or history of political Islam. So they think of Islam as only a religion and believe since Islam has so many members, it must be one of the great religions. And all religions are good, so Islam must be good. But there is a nagging dark feeling about the violence in Islam. Since Islam has been defined good, there must be an explanation. Those Muslims who kill must be “extremist” Muslims. That leaves Islam as good with a few rotten apples.

In Islam, Mohammed, Ali, Umar, Abu Bakr and all of the rest of the founding Muslims were “extremist” Muslims since they were killers over and over again. What kafirs call extremism is only Islam.

FP: In the context of everything you are saying, what is the hope, or point, of trying to “reform” Islam?

Warner: Some come up with the thinking that if Islam has nothing good for kafirs, then why not reform it? This idea comes from making an analogy to Christianity. However, Islam’s claims aside, there are almost no points of comparison between Islam and Christianity. On the issue of ethics, for instance, there is absolutely no analogy.

The religion of Islam needs no reform. Who cares about how Muslims worship? All kafirs must be concerned with Islamic politics or how Islam defines them. The Koran, the Sira and the Hadith determine the treatment of kafirs.

To reform the Koran, all of the hateful, cruel, and bigoted references to kafirs would have to be removed. If the kafir material is removed, then only 39% of the Koran remains. The greatest part of the part of the Koran, 61%, is devoted to negativity about kafirs.

The Sira (the life of Mohammed) has about 75% of its material devoted to jihad.

The Hadith has 20% of its material devoted to jihad. There is no one positive reference to kafirs.

If you delete 61% of the Koran, 75% of the Sira and 20% of the Hadith, you will have reformed Islam. You will also have destroyed it. There is a very good reason that Islam has never been reformed. It is impossible.

Is it so hard to believe that a political system with the name “submission” (that is what Islam means) is violent and can't be reformed? To submit is a demand of force.

Why would Islam want to reform? It works. You don't fix a system that works.

The other objection to Islamic reform is that there is no central hierarchy that makes decision for Muslims. Anyone can read the doctrine and decide what to do. No one has the authority to decide what every Muslim can do. In that way, Islam is like the Internet; it is a distributed system with no central doctrinal authority. Who speaks for Islam? Mohammed. Who interprets Mohammed? Any Muslim.

You can have a kafirized Muslim, but there is no such thing as kafirized Islam. Islam cannot be reformed. Hence, the name reformed Islam is only a kafir dream.

FP: So we need to start using the right names and terms.

Warner: Of course. The right names help to think right thoughts. Muddled names lead to muddled thoughts. If we are serious, we must start using the right names to describe Islam. Our terms must be based upon Islam, not kafir dreams.

If we want to refer to the more peaceful Muslims, call them Meccan Muslims. The jihadists are Medinan Muslims.

Wrong names include: moderate Muslim, extremist Muslim, good Muslim, radical Muslim.

Right names include: Meccan Muslim, Medinan Muslim, kafirized Muslim.

We must take control of the language. Incorrect names lead to incorrect thinking. We have to use the right names to defeat political Islam.

FP: So what point of view is your argument and outlook based on?

Warner: All of this analysis is based upon a kafir-centric view. There are three ways to examine Islam—believer, kafir and dhimmi. The believer-centric view is the standard Islamic viewpoint. For the believer, the Koran is the perfect word of the only god of the universe and Mohammed is the perfect pattern for all human life and all times.

Kafir-centric analysis looks at Islam from the viewpoint of the kafir; how does this affect us?

Kafir-centric analysis is the view of the victim. As an example, in the Sira, Mohammed's triumph over the Meccan polytheists is told as a wonderful victory. From the view of the kafir, it represents the annihilation of a tolerant society and the creation of the modern apartheid state of Arabia. As a result of Islam, the Arabs went from being a tolerant people to being the most bigoted and biased society on earth.

The kafir-centric school is skeptical and analytic.

The dhimmi-centric viewpoint is the academic school and is neither fish nor fowl. It is marked by political correctness and never refers to the deaths of the 270 million kafirs, never talks about the suffering of the dhimmis. The dhimmi-centric school is actually believer-centric lite. It rarely applies skepticism. The dhimmi-centric school is the predominate school in the universities, military, law enforcement, government and the media. The dhimmi-centric school is very fond of using modern political science to analyze Islam.

One of the marks of the dhimmi-centric school is to ignore Islamic political theory. For instance, jihad is never used to explain violence. Or Israel is seen only as a modern political state and the Palestinians are just another political group. Reading the Israelis news stories, you would never know that Islam had a doctrine of war. But when you read the communications of the Palestinian leaders, it is crystal clear that it is jihad against the kafirs in Israel. From the standpoint of Islam, if every Jew in Israel were a Hindu, nothing would change.

Multiculturalism is all the rage these days. What is strange is that only the believer-centric school and the kafir-centric theory explain Islam by its doctrine. The dhimmi-centric academic school avoids this at all costs. This is ironic since it was the academics who created multiculturalism. So the dhimmi-centric school is bigoted and euro-centric by its own standards of multiculturalism.

FP: Bill Warner, thank you for this fascinating and eye-opening discussion.

Warner: You are welcome Jamie.

Notes:

[1] *Before the Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors*, Chapter 8, Sociality, pgs. 130-180, Nicholas Wade, Penguin Press, NY, 2006.

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=76B12F33-3165-47D1-80ED-C3F1ACD07D8A>



South Asia

'My daughter, the terrorist'

By Tarjei Kidd Olsen

May 9, 2008

OSLO - In Sri Lanka's brutal civil war, some rebel women end their lives as suicide bombers that have killed hundreds over the years. A Norwegian documentary film that follows two 24-year-olds training to do just this has enraged the Sri Lankan government, but raises important questions about the conduct of war and its consequences.

The women are from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), often called the Tamil Tigers, a rebel group that has been fighting for an independent homeland for the Tamil ethnic minority since the 1970s. The demand has arisen, they say, in reaction to abuses and discrimination by the Sri Lankan government.

A third of the Tigers are women.

The documentary *My Daughter the Terrorist* follows Darshika and Puhachudar, two elite female soldiers in the Tamil Tigers, as they train for missions that can include suicide bombings against perceived enemy targets. It also talks to the mother of one, painting a tragic picture of loss and sacrifice in war.

According to the film, about 300 hundred suicide bombings are alleged to have been committed by the Black Tigers, Darshika and Puhachudar's elite Tamil Tiger squad founded in 1987. Although the women insist that only military targets are attacked, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accuses both the rebels and the military of serious human rights abuses, including attacks against civilians and the forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Hostilities have increased dramatically following the gradual collapse of peace talks and a ceasefire brokered by Norway in 2001. A large-scale government offensive against the rebels is currently raging in the northern parts of the country, with heavy casualties reported on both sides.

Active Black Tiger soldiers have never been interviewed before, according to the 2007 documentary by Snitt Film Production. Norwegian director Beate Arnestad had to spend one-and-a-half years in sensitive negotiations with the Tamil Tigers before gaining access during the ceasefire period.

"I wanted to show the human costs of war," Arnestad told Inter Press Service. "Very often you only get official statements from politicians, but I wanted to see what the real costs are - what

happens to a population that has experienced more than a generation of warfare. Is this how terrorism is born? I wondered how people become suicide bombers, a choice that seems completely incomprehensible to most of us," she said.

Arnestad added: "Most families live very traditional lives, and particularly women. For a woman to first become a soldier and then a suicide bomber candidate is a huge and radical step."

In the documentary Darshika says she joined the rebels as a 12-year-old after losing her father, and suffering abuse and humiliation at the hands of the military. The young Puhachudar and her family were rescued by Tamil Tiger rebels defending a bridge they had to cross to escape a military attack.

"Thanks to them [Tamil Tigers] our family was saved. When we were running through the shelling the army attacked us ... But the movement fought back. That's how we survived. After that I felt that I had to save these [Tamil] people. I thought that if I don't join the movement, our people will be forced into slavery," Puhachudar sobs in an emotional scene in the documentary.

Even though both girls are Christian, they are not driven by religious fanaticism. The Tamil Tigers do not adhere to any particular religion, according to the pair. In the documentary Darshika asks: "If there is a God, why does he keep us in this endless misery? Even those who came to church for protection ended up in pools of blood."

Producer and co-director Morten Daae says that while the suicide bombers are not religious martyrs, they are revered as heroes. "In the West there is a preconception that all suicide bombers are fanatical Muslims expecting virgins in the afterlife, but that is not the case here," Daae told IPS. "They don't believe they will be rewarded in the afterlife or anything like that, but they will be remembered every year on Heroes' Day, when all the villages ceremoniously honor their individual martyrs with pictures and candles.

"They are willing to go that extra mile to protect their country and their families and their people, and they are proud of it. And because they live in a very male-dominated society, the female Black Tigers have an extremely high status compared to ordinary women. They are both respected and feared. When they are out among civilians you can to a certain degree see that they radiate much more self-confidence and authority than the civilian women next to them."

It took some time for director Arnestad to gain the girls' trust. Daae believes that the fact that Arnestad is a woman helped. "In the beginning the girls were very careful, and mostly stuck to the official line. I do think that Beate's position as a woman meant that her long period of trying to convince them to open up actually paid off, because it is easier to talk to a woman. Of course, she is also a very skilled interviewer."

Things became easier still when the girls were taken to places they could relate to, such as childhood sites. Daae gives the example of a scene in the documentary where Darshika arrives at a church which was rebuilt after being destroyed in the war, before being destroyed again by the 2004 tsunami. "She broke down completely because this was the church that she used to attend as a child. After that she began to pour her heart out."

While *My Daughter the Terrorist* has won prizes and has been well received by most international audiences, Sri Lanka's government is not very thrilled. On their website they accuse the documentary of "glorifying suicide bombers", and unsuccessfully tried to prevent it being shown at a film festival in the United States on April 4 by pressuring the US State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Arnestad does not understand the government reaction. "The documentary does not justify terrorism or glorify suicide bombers - rather the opposite. I also find it strange that this criticism is being levied a whole year after we first released the documentary. I suspect this is because it is being shown in so many places, while the Sri Lankan government does its best to impose a complete news blackout," she said.

Following a suicide bombing on April 6 that killed the transport minister and a national Olympic hero, Daae received anonymous death threats via e-mail. The producer does not believe that they will be carried out, but says he understands why some people have reacted so strongly.

"For some in Sri Lanka it no doubt appears that a Norwegian man and a Norwegian woman are being so impudent as to support people that they consider as mere butchers, which is quite something. We do not support them - if we support anyone it must be the victims. But it is not so surprising that they feel this way as they have most probably never actually seen the documentary and have only heard the government's version of events."

Filming for the documentary wrapped up just as the ceasefire began to collapse, and Darshika and Puhachudar were posted to a new mission according to the Tamil Tiger leadership. Arnestad and Daae have not been able to trace their whereabouts since then, and do not know if they are still alive.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/JE09Df03.html

NewScientistTech

New material may be step towards 3D invisibility cloak

Jeff Hecht, *NewScientist.com* news service, 13 May 2008

A California nanotechnology research lab says it has created the first 3D material able to bend light in the opposite direction to natural materials. But some other specialists in the field remain sceptical about the claim.

Physicists have in recent years made it possible to bend, or refract, light in the opposite direction to any natural materials. These metamaterials make it possible to create invisibility cloaks that hide an object by steering light around it.

The refractive index of a material is a measure of how it bends light and for natural materials it is always positive. Metamaterials, though, can have negative refractive indexes.

This is achieved with tiny periodic structures that interact with the electric and magnetic fields that comprise light. The repeating structures need to be smaller than the light waves themselves, something that has limited them to long-wavelength light, or microwaves.

Added depth

So far, researchers have created negative refractive-index materials and even an "invisibility cloak" for visible light and microwaves. But they have all been flat, working only in two dimensions.

Now Jason Valentine, a graduate student in the nano-engineering lab at the University of California at Berkeley, US, claims to have made a 3D metamaterial with a negative refractive index.

Valentine's "prism" is made from 21 alternating layers of silver and magnesium fluoride, arranged in a "fishnet" structure. He claims that the refractive index is negative in a small region of the near-infrared spectrum.

Gunnar Dolling of the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, has made a flat negative refractive-index material for light on the boundary between red and infrared light. He is unconvinced by Valentine's claims, he says.

Light reading

Valentine based his figures on measuring that light was bent backwards by the prism. But Dolling says that he showed last year that, for metamaterials similar to Valentine's, that method does not accurately reflect the material's true properties.

Dolling and colleagues found that the complex interactions between light waves and such metal-based metamaterials can deflect a light beam the "wrong way" without a negative refractive index.

"You can only measure a negative refractive index by measuring the phase velocity", meaning the actual speed of light in the medium, he told **New Scientist**.

Valentine did not respond to **New Scientist**'s enquiries, saying that a future paper would expand on the new prism's performance.

<http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn13886-new-material-may-be-step-towards-3d-invisibility-cloak.html>

Yahoo! News

Sharp rise in suicide attacks by women in Iraq likely: US expert

by Karin Zeitvogel, May 5, 2008



Iraqi women walk past a damaged home in the Shiite Muslim Sadr City district of Baghdad. The number of suicide attacks by women in Iraq has risen sharply this year and can be expected to spike again in the coming months, a US expert in terrorism said Monday. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - As many women carried out suicide attacks in Iraq so far this year as in the five previous years combined, and attacks by women are expected to spike again in the coming months, a US terrorism expert said

Monday.

"Between January and April, there were 12 suicide attacks by women in Iraq. That marks an exponential increase," Farhana Ali, a US international policy analyst of Pakistani origin, told *AFP* after a symposium on terrorism at the American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting in Washington.

Twelve women carried out suicide attacks in Iraq in the first few months of this year compared with 11 between 2003 and 2007, according to Ali.

"So long as this conflict continues, you will see greater instability in Iraq and women will be greatly victimized -- you will see more women in Iraq choose suicide terrorism in the next few months," she predicted, adding that she had warned US officials and policy makers of the threat since 2005.

"It's only in the past two months that we have given serious attention to this issue. Why? Because female attackers in Iraq are hurting our efforts for peace and stability in that country," she said.

Ali, who worked as an adviser to the US government before joining the private sector as an international policy analyst, blamed the rise in female suicide bombers largely on the marginalization of Iraqi women since the US invasion in 2003.

"Iraqi women, slowly, over the course of the conflict have been marginalized," she told AFP.

"They were at the forefront of their society. They were in the Iraqi cabinet, in government, in NGOs. We stripped them of those opportunities.

"Many have left but those who stayed behind are also victims of rape and torture and kidnapping. So they are being victimized twice," she said.

"Women use attacks as a protest. In Iraq, they are protesting at the loss of their men, the loss of their society and the loss of their country," said Ali.

In a presentation given to several hundred mental healthcare practitioners and a handful of reporters at the American Psychiatric Association meeting, which runs until Thursday, Ali warned that US soldiers face a cultural barrier in detecting women bombers.

"A marine officer coming back from Fallujah said to me: 'How are we supposed to detect these women if we are taught before we are deployed to not even look at them?'" she explained.

Some Iraqi women may have been coerced into carrying out suicide attacks, but the greater danger comes from those who choose to blow themselves up, said Ali.

"Iraq is a country of widows ... when women are vulnerable and have to protect themselves and play the role of the man and woman of the household, they are easily exploitable," she said.

"But we can't assume that all Iraqi women suicide attackers are exploited and recruited. We have to ask how many women are doing this because they want to -- that's the more serious question."

Ali suggested ways of dissuading Iraqi women from carrying out suicide attacks, including empowering more women and forging US-Iraqi alliances with them.

"If you want to gain entrance into female jihadi organisations, you need female case officers. You need female police officers. You need women in Iraqi law enforcement," she said.

"Most US commanders see Iraq as a very male society, and our military is creating alliances with tribes," said Ali, adding that she has warned since 2005 of the dangers posed by women suicide attackers.

"But women are half of any society, and so we have to nurture the women if we are to have a stable society," she added.

Some 19,000 psychiatrists and other health practitioners are expected to attend the American Psychiatric Association meeting, where the psychological traumas of war and school violence are high on the agenda of items to be discussed.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080506/wl_mideast_afp/usiraqterrorismwomenhealthpsychiatry_080506025719



SPARK programs robots with insect perception

May 12, 2008.

We talked recently about the importance of complementing [robotic perception](#) with some basic cognitive tools, in order to produce robots that can interact with their environment in a more natural fashion. The EU-funded [SPARK](#) project has developed a perceptual control architecture that allows robots to adapt to cluttered and changing environments, and learn from experience – an ability that may eventually suit it to disaster or war zones. The design is based on the neural processes of insects, and allows robots to form a unique, abstract representation of the environment, and modulate their behavior accordingly.



SPARK programs robots with insect perception

Using cutting edge technology to create robo-bugs and replicate the adaptive behavior of insects would be an huge milestone in Artificial Intelligence research. After all, flies may not share our intelligence, but they've proved time and again that their evasive airborne maneuvering could put the Red Baron to shame. The ability of insects to maneuver so effectively in their environment stems from their cognitive structure. As insects

receive stimuli from their senses, they are presented with a variety of reflexive options. The higher brain functions of the insect organize the information into a picture of the environment, and self-modulate the basic actions that were triggered by the sensory-motor pathways.

This two-fold system of environmental interaction, in which the senses dictate basic response and the higher cognitive systems direct the behavior, was the basis of SPARK's spatial-temporal array computer based structure (SPARC). The perception architecture allows robots to form, learn and remember navigation strategies without human intervention. SPARK-based robots are fitted with sophisticated tactile, aural and visual sensors, and programmed with basic reactions towards certain stimuli - for example, robots are directed to move themselves towards a specific sound source. However, the reflexive action is regulated by the robot, so that it can move efficiently through a changing environment, towards the sound source, without trapping itself.

The ability of the robot to modulate its behavior allows it to learn from experience, and improvise.

“The SPARC architecture is a starting step toward emulating the essential perception-action architecture of living beings, where some basic behaviors are inherited, like escaping or feeding, while others are incrementally learned, leading to the emergence of higher cognitive abilities,” notes Paolo Arena, the project coordinator. “The robot will initially behave by using primarily the basic inherited behaviors,” says Arena. “Higher knowledge will be incrementally formed in the higher layer of the architecture, which is a neuron lattice based on the Reaction-Diffusion Cellular Non-linear Network (RD-CNN) paradigm, able to generate self-organizing dynamic patterns.”

The potential applications for robots that can efficiently navigate through changing, dangerous environments are huge. If robots were programmed to reflexively move toward the aural stimulus of the human voice, and given the cognitive ability to seek a safe pathway through a changing environment, they could be of great use in search and rescue operations in dangerous or inaccessible environments.

In order to develop the SPARC system, the SPARK research team investigated how visual, aural, and tactile senses create a spatial-temporal simplified dynamic representation of the environment. They then used this understanding of perception to create a pattern formation system, in which the “pattern” is the collected sensory data. This framework was then applied to robotic models, which underwent environmental tests. Research into insect brain neurobiology is continuing with the SPARK II project, which aims to refine, assess, and generalize the SPARK architecture.

<http://www.gizmag.com/spark-programs-robots-with-insect-perception/9311/gallery/>

The JAMESTOWN F O U N D A T I O N

Strategy of Somalia's Islamists Survives Death of Militant Leader



05/06/2008 - By Sunguta West (from **Terrorism Focus**, May 6) - Anti-terrorism officials in the Horn of Africa are on high alert following the killing of Shaykh Aden Hashi Ayro, the military leader of al-Shabaab, the youth wing of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in Somalia, in a May 1 strike by U.S. ship-launched Tomahawk missiles (*SomaliNet*, May 2; *Daily Nation* [Nairobi], May 2).

Shaykh Ayro, trained in terrorist and insurgency methods in Afghanistan and believed to have been in his 30s, was killed in a house together with another five insurgents in the small central Somalia town of Dusamareb, 250 miles north of Mogadishu (*al-Jazeera*, May 2). Those killed included Ayro's brother, another commander, Muhiyadin Muhammad Umar, and several other insurgents. At least a dozen civilians in neighboring houses were also killed by the missiles.

Soon after the attack, Shaykh Muqtar Robow Adumansur, the group's spokesman, vowed the group would retaliate, setting off an alert in the Horn of Africa: "This does not deter us from continuing our holy war against Allah's enemy; we will be on the right way; that is why we are targeted" (*The Standard* [Nairobi], May 2). Thousands of people took to the streets of Dusamareb on May 4 to protest the attack (*AFP*, May 4).

Anti-terrorism officials fear the insurgents in Somalia—who are alleged by the United States to have close links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network—could be planning to stage revenge attacks on American interests, especially in Kenya. In mid-April, two Kenyans and two British nationals were killed when the Islamists carried out overnight attacks in a school in central Somalia (*Sunday Nation* [Nairobi], May 4).

The United States classifies al-Shabaab as a terrorist organization. Several months before the killing of Shaykh Ayro, its fighters intensified their daily attacks on Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), which is backed by Ethiopian army soldiers. These attacks yielded the control of substantial territories in central and southern Somalia.

There is a similarity in al-Shabaab's tactics of hit and run raids on TFG-held towns with those of Iraq's militants. The fighters have been attacking soldiers and policemen, and in some instances have set free prisoners in the town they have captured. The fighters have also been planting roadside bombs, hurling grenades and carrying out assassinations at targeted persons.

Al-Shabaab has also advanced on towns, either in the cover of darkness or very early in the morning when government soldiers are still sleepy and captured them briefly to reinstate their

earlier leadership or choose a new one.

The following day, the Islamists typically hold a public rally in which they defend their actions while promising better security and services. Rallying around Quranic teaching and stressing that the TFG and Ethiopian forces are infidels serving anti-Muslim masters, the group has been winning support similar to what they had before being disposed by Ethiopian forces in 2006 (*Garowe Online*, April 27).

With the Islamist insurgents capturing towns, TFG and Ethiopian soldiers have been organizing counter attacks, but al-Shabaab withdraws to safety with its battle wagons and weapons before the forces arrive. The aim is to stretch the TFG forces to the breaking point while avoiding a face to face encounter with the far better equipped Ethiopian army (*Geeska Magazine* [Hargeisa, Somaliland], April 16).

On April 27, al-Shabaab briefly took over the town of Jowhar for the third time in a single month. The group's leaders told rallies that the fighters had not come to impose their rule, but were responding to the invitation of the local people. In 2006, the ICU preached a similar message when they ran over town after town across southern and central Somalia.

The ICU leaders said they had been invited to the villages, districts and regions and promised to deal with criminals terrorizing the people of the areas. But instead of occupying Jowhar this time, the forces withdrew before the arrival of Ethiopian and TFG forces (*Garowe Online*, April 27).

Reports say eight towns in districts like Bu'ale, Qansax Dhere and Ufurow Bay and Middle Juba have fallen into the hands of Islamists. These are now under control of the radical young fighters after TFG administrators abandoned their posts before al-Shabaab arrived (*Garowe Online*, April 28). The Islamists say they are capable of keeping the territories they have captured, but do not want battles that will lead to loss of life.

The Ethiopian retaliatory attacks have killed thousands of Somalis and wounded thousands of innocent civilians. "We are capable of holding the areas we capture. But we always want fewer losses.... We want no harm to come to the civilian population ... Until people become independent, the fighting will not stop," Muhammad Ibrahim Suley, a member of the ICU, was quoted as saying (*Hiiran.com*, March 27).

Al-Shabaab's aim is to destabilize the Ethiopian forces by worsening the chaos in central and southern Somalia, thus drawing off forces from the capital. It will also increase insecurity to the point that the population will call on the Islamists to save them. But with the killing of Ayro, it is possible al-Shabaab may either stage quick and violent revenge attacks or make a tactical withdrawal to plan their next move.

Sunguta West is an independent journalist based in Nairobi.

http://www.jamestown.org/news_details.php?news_id=320#



Terror 'wannabes' Canada's biggest threat

Senior Mountie says young Canadians attracted to 'sound-bite Islam' are what keep him from sleeping

COLIN FREEZE

From Thursday's *Globe and Mail*

May 8, 2008

OTTAWA — Canada's top counterterrorism policeman says that of the hundreds of national-security investigations he has open, a handful are keeping him from sleeping at night.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mike McDonnell didn't delve into specifics of ongoing investigations, but he did tell a conference in Ottawa yesterday that terrorist "wannabes" in their teens and 20s are among the biggest threats to Canada.

"The gutting of core al-Qaeda brings us to today's threat," he said in a speech to government officials and security contractors. "I look at them as terrorist wannabes."

"Being a wannabe does not make them any less dangerous," he said, according to a text of his remarks. "In fact I would argue it makes them more dangerous."

Commissioner McDonnell, who two years ago announced the arrests of 18 mostly young terrorism suspects in Toronto, added that the individuals he worries about most still tend to be Canadian residents aged 20 or so.

He said they are attracted to "sound-bite Islam." Arguing they are less religious scholars than misfits, he said they are motivated by Internet propaganda depicting atrocities against Muslims.

Commissioner McDonnell made his remarks at a "critical infrastructure" protection conference at the Chateau Laurier.

Bureaucrats in attendance urged speakers, including Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, to fund measures to protect airports, energy pipelines, transit systems and cities from possible attacks.

The 2006 RCMP investigation focused on an alleged plot to bomb government targets in Toronto.

Critics who have always questioned the use of police informants have lately suggested that the case must be falling apart, given that only 11 of the original 18 suspects are now set to face trial.

Commissioner McDonnell insisted it was not an admission of error for the Crown to give some individuals second chances through the signing of peace bonds.

Police, he added, have to be very cautious about dismissing peripheral suspects.

Such individuals can evolve into central figures, he said, raising the example of the perpetrators of the so-called 7/7 subway bombings in London in 2005.

The ringleaders had been dismissed as small fish by U.K. police a year before they killed dozens of commuters.

A newer British conspiracy was generating some chatter in the corridors of the Ottawa conference yesterday.

Crown prosecutors in London are airing wiretaps generated by an alleged 2006 conspiracy to blow up passenger planes, including Air Canada jets, over the Atlantic Ocean.

The taped conversations of two London suspects, aged 27 and 30, indicate they were very concerned about getting the right sound bites into their propaganda.

A "martyrdom" tape in the making, aired yesterday, suggested one British suspect acted like a film director. "When you mention Allah [God] do that," he says.

"When you're making a point, point away, the hand movement, you're warning the *kuffar* [infidels] give a bit of aggression, yeah, a bit loudly ..."

The other man, the alleged speaker, then says, "This is from Omar Islam, the son of Islam, to the people of the world. To let you know the reasons for this action which *inshallah* [God willing] I am going to undertake.

"Firstly this is an obligation on me as a Muslim to wage *jihad* against the *kuffar*." He pauses to ask, "How did I do?"

According to the British evidence, his co-accused giving direction then replies: "Uh, it's good, it's good. Now I want you to... I wanted you, say a word with... to the hypocrites and dodgy scholars ... And I want you to say a word for the Muslims all over the world that we are suffering."

He adds: "Puff it up a bit. You understand?"

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080508.wterror08/BNStory/National/home>



Those who go to fight in Iraq 'are preachers of evil'

Mariam Al Hakeem, Correspondent

May 07, 2008

Riyadh: Prominent Saudi Islamic scholar and member of the Senior Scholars' Commission Shaikh Saleh Bin Fauzan Al Fauzan has warned Saudi youths against going to Iraq to fight in the war-torn country.

While labeling those who go to fight in Iraq as "preachers of evil," he urged everyone to tell the authorities about such people. Shaikh Al Fauzan was speaking to members of the teaching faculty at Imam Mohammad Bin Saudi Islamic University here on Tuesday.

According to the scholar it is obligatory on the part of all to admonish those youths who are eager to go to Iraq to fight. He added it was important to convince them of the dangers involved in their move.

"If they are obstinate and insist on going, then security officials should be given a tip-off about such people," he said.

Shaikh Fauzan warned of an outfit called "Jamaat Tableegh" saying the Muslim Ummah was not in need of them. The scholar also called on the university professors to be vigilant and safeguard their students from deviant thoughts and extreme ideologies.

"Lectures, special classes and various other means shall be applied for the same," he said.

It is noteworthy that the Saudi authorities, who are anxious as to the possibility of the infiltration of deviant youths to Iraq through its international borders, have taken all possible precautionary steps and measures to check this.

As part of this, the government has expedited the move to set up a security fence along the border. Major General Mansour Al Turki, Ministry of Interior spokesman, recently announced the invitation of tenders from leading contracting companies to build the fence.

As many as 14 companies have so far presented their bids to grab the contract worth 4 billion riyals (Dh3.92 billion), according to a report published by MEED (Middle East Economic Digest). The 900-km fence will be constructed in three phases and the period of implementation of the huge project will be 25 months.

The Saudi Arabian government has expedited the move to set up a security fence along the border as part of measures to stop citizens from crossing into Iraq.

http://www.gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi_arabia/10211571.html



South Asia

US trains Pakistani killing machine

By Syed Saleem Shahzad, May 8, 2008

KARACHI - A longstanding disconnect between the Pakistan and United States militaries is largely responsible for the inability of the "war on terror" to nail key targets such as al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, as well as military failures against the Taliban-led insurgency in Afghanistan.

Former US ambassador to Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines and presently Deputy Secretary of State, John Negroponte, aims to change this by creating special Pakistani units, trained by the US, to go after key figures.

"These programs have already started and will continue at length. Already, many teams of US military officials have arrived in Pakistan and have started basic training courses," a senior Pakistani security official told *Asia Times Online* on the condition of anonymity.

"Under these programs, US Army officers will come to Pakistan and maintain a close liaison with middle-ranking army officers, including majors, colonels and brigadiers. Some officers will then be selected to go to the US, where they will be trained in special operations," the official said.

According to other security contacts who spoke to *Asia Times Online*, the conventional fight against insurgents - that is, large deployments of the Pakistani army in the tribal areas - will be set aside and the newly trained special operations teams will go after irreconcilable hardline militants. The newly elected government in Islamabad at the same time will negotiate with reconcilable elements.

Pakistan is also to be given a new US aid package in the context of this counter-terrorism approach. The US Congress is soon to decide whether to triple non-military aid to Pakistan to US\$7 billion.

The training by the US of Pakistani Special Forces is based on Negroponte's initiatives in Nicaragua and the Philippines, where indigenous armies were cultivated to further the US's battles. In the case of the Philippines, it is against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and separatists on the island of Mindanao. In Nicaragua, Special Forces were trained as a bulwark against the revolutionary Sandinista government in the 1980s.

The reasons for the new tactic in Pakistan are twofold. Firstly, the Pakistani army does not have extensive training in counter-insurgency, especially on its western borders, that is, Afghanistan. And for years, its strategic orientation has been India-obsessed, in

particular fueling the insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Secondly, the US considers it vital to bring its military closer to Pakistan's. At a senior level, many Pakistani officers have a personal rapport with senior US officials. The chief of army staff, General Ashfaq Pervez Kiani, has attended three extensive courses in the US, where he has cultivated high-level contacts. The idea is to achieve the same contacts for middle-ranking officials as a tool for sharing intelligence and conducting joint military operations.

Despite the US giving Pakistan about \$10 billion in military aid over the past seven years, the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan is stronger than ever and the Taliban have found safe heavens in Pakistan. Some officials in Washington suspect most of the US money has been used to build up Pakistan's conventional forces for use in possible future conflicts with India, rather than spent on counter-insurgency.

Under the new plan, any reward money for taking out high-value targets will go directly into the pockets of middle- and junior-level officers, who will be at the heart of the special operations teams. Previously, reward money has invariably ended up in the hands of the exchequer, rather than in those of informers or the security officials involved. This has acted as a disincentive for cooperation in the "war on terror", especially for a military that traditionally has had a soft spot for the Taliban.

Sensing the new moves, Pakistani militants have unilaterally broken various ceasefire agreements with the authorities and carried out two deadly attacks against Pakistani security forces in the past few days.

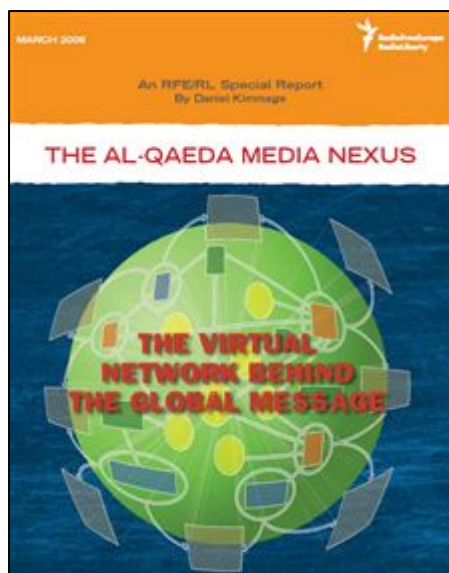
Some Taliban leaders have made unprecedented calls for the urgent and strict enforcement of Islamic laws, for instance, Maulana Faqir Muhammad of Bajaur Agency has ordered all men in the tribal area to grow a beard. The aim is to spread the insurgency at the grassroots level and close the gap between irreconcilable and reconcilable Taliban, thereby making the task of the new special operations units all the more difficult.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/JE08Df03.html

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty

World: RFE/RL Study Explores How Al-Qaeda Exploits Internet

April 8, 2008



(RFE/RL)

A new study by Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty examines how Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups use the Internet to spread their message of global jihad.

The study, by RFE/RL senior analyst Daniel Kimmage, was formally released today at the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. It focuses on the structure of the relationship between Al-Qaeda-linked media entities and armed groups that conduct operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The study -- "The Al-Qaeda Media Nexus" -- follows up on a similar study that Kimmage and RFE/RL analyst Kathleen Ridolfo produced in 2007 about Iraqi insurgent media.

Kimmage says the latest study expands on the early work by focusing on the relationships between armed groups and the different teams that produce "jihadist media." Kimmage then draws conclusions from those relationships.

"This is a study that really looks at two things," he says. "It looks at the global message that Al-Qaeda puts out and that its affiliates put out. It also looks at the network that is behind that -- and then, how...they get that [message] out to the world. What is the network that brings that [message] to people over the Internet -- because the Internet is really the primary delivery mechanism for Al-Qaeda?"

The study notes that some scholars object to the term "jihadist" to describe the network that produces Al-Qaeda materials distributed on the Internet. That is because the term confers false legitimacy on an aberrant strain of thought that promotes exclusively militant interpretations of the word "jihad."

Kimmage says he uses jihad neutrally to refer to armed groups that described themselves as fighting a violent jihad against all perceived enemies.

"The message comes out in statements on a daily basis. It comes out in periodicals -- magazines published on the web. It comes out in books and it comes out in video," he says. "The material I used for this study comes from June 2007, and I collected 450 items from various places on the web that were all part of the Al-Qaeda media nexus."

Clear Patterns

Kimmage says clear patterns can be seen in the structure of messages posted on the Internet by groups with links to Al-Qaeda -- groups that he describes as "media production and distribution entities."

"The typical forum always has certain divisions. It has a section on events. It has a section on news from the jihad, audio-visual, poetry, general discussion," he says. "What we see here is that everything is branded. In other words, if you look at the right side of the forum, there is a little logo next to every single press release. It is the logo of the group that is releasing it. And there is another branding mechanism -- down at the bottom, there is a section that identifies who released and produced this particular video clip. What we learn from this is that there is an organization that this particular video is affiliated with, there is a production company, and then there is a distributor."

By studying the branding patterns and logos used by Al-Qaeda's media production and distribution entities, Kimmage says consistent relationships between different groups are also apparent.

"When you look at all of the information on all of the things that they release, what you find is that there are very clear and consistent relationships," Kimmage says. "So the Islamic State of Iraq always releases its videos through Furqan [the so-called Al-Furqan Media Institute] and through Fajr -- [the Al-Fajr Media Center]. And what you can see here, diagrammed out, is all the relationships that tied these groups together in June 2007."

"So all of the audio and video and books and press releases -- it's all produced and distributed by someone. And when you map it all out, these are the connections," he continues. "From there, it goes out to the Internet. So not all of these groups directly post statements. So in other words, an armed group will film an attack and then it will be posted by a different organization."

Priorities of Jihadist Media

In addition to explaining how the Al-Qaeda media nexus links together franchises and affiliates of Al-Qaeda with armed groups, Kimmage also examines the priorities of jihadist media as a whole. He also analyzes the composition of media products coming from specific groups to draw conclusions and suggest topics for future research.

"Al-Qaeda, which was very, very advanced and very, very impressive in its use of new technology, is, I think, a bit behind the curve," Kimmage says. "They are sort of stuck in Web 1.0. They are producing what they think is the coolest content, the best videos, the most impressive press releases. And they are creating the most sophisticated -- the best network -- to distribute it to the web. What's missing is interactivity in user-generated content -- a world in which users generate a lot of the content and in which people want to interact with others. Al-Qaeda really seems stuck in the old model.

"In 2006, Al-Qaeda released a big position paper and they warned their supporters against creating their own content. They said this was 'media exuberance' and that their supporters should let the official distribution and production groups handle this," Kimmage continues. "Even when Al-Qaeda has tried to be interactive, it is quite old-fashioned. So the question that we end up with is: Al-Qaeda -- which had done so well using the Internet to spread its message over the last few years -- are they now doomed to fade with this new more interactive and user-generated network? And will they be replaced by a much larger, much more integrated, much freer, much more empowered world in which it is very difficult to control messages and in which no one has a monopoly on information?"

Kimmage concludes that the desire of Al-Qaeda's media-production teams to strictly control the messages being put out on the Internet could ultimately backfire, causing Al-Qaeda to lose support from its sympathizers.

"Freer and more empowered networks, in the end, will do more to undermine Al-Qaeda's message than the actions of any government," he says. "In the end, an idea that takes root in the political sphere -- an idea that encourages people and inspires them to commit violence -- it only fades and dies when the idea itself is discredited. The discrediting of this idea, of this ideology, will happen online through a large conversation that takes places mainly without governments."

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2008/04/512ce9d3-53ae-46cc-800b-c8ff317f7178.html>